

PROGRAMS OF EXCELLENCE OF RESEARCH ON OSTEOPOROSIS

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PROGRAMS OF EXCELLENCE OF RESEARCH ON OSTEOPOROSIS

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National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases
National Institute on Aging
National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases

Application Receipt Date: November 17, 1986

BACKGROUND

The National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIAMS), the National Institute on Aging (NIA) and the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) are inviting grant applications from interested institutions for Programs of Excellence of Research on Osteoporosis. Osteoporosis is a frequently occurring disease (or possibly several related diseases) that leads to weakened bone that fractures more easily than normal bone. The condition affects as many as 15-20 million individuals in the United States.

About 1.3 million fractures attributable to osteoporosis occur annually in people age 45 or older. Among those who live to be age 90, 32 percent of women and 17 percent of men will suffer a hip fracture, most due to osteoporosis combined with a fall. The vast majority of the approximately 200,000 hip fractures occurring each year are suffered by elderly people. The one year mortality of hip fracture victims probably exceeds 20 percent. The cost of all hip fractures exceeds \$7 billion annually.

RESEARCH GOALS AND SCOPE

The goal of this RFA is to solicit coordinated multidisciplinary research in an area of special importance to the NIAMS, the NIA and the NIDDK. Areas of investigations of interest to the NIAMS, the NIA and the NIDDK include but are not limited to:

- * Studies of the mechanisms underlying the regulation of resorption and formation of bone and how these mechanisms are disrupted and result in osteoporosis.
- * Development of low cost, low risk, sensitive and specific methods for determining the quantity of bone in various anatomic structures, assessing the status of bone metabolism, and estimating the structural quality of various regions of the skeleton.
- * Conducting epidemiologic investigations to further clarify risk factors including identification of previously unknown factors.
- * Studies on the influence of preventive measures including establishment of greater bone mass in children and young adults and active prevention of bone loss in the postmenopausal period. Extensive clinical studies or trials of the current forms of estrogens or progestins will not be supported by this RFA.
- * Investigations of treatments for individuals already afflicted with significant bone loss and/or fractures. Restoration of osteoporotic bone to bone of normal quality and strength is desired, including persons of very advanced age.

MECHANISM OF SUPPORT

The administrative and funding mechanism will be the Program Project Award. The regulations and the policies that govern the research grant programs of the Public Health Service will prevail. The award will support: (a) research projects, (b) core functions, and (c) feasibility studies. To be eligible for an award, an application must contain a minimum of three approved meritorious research projects.

The start date for funded projects will be approximately July 1, 1987. NIAMS, NIA and NIDDK anticipate funding a total of three program projects. The first year budget of each awarded program project must not exceed \$500,000 direct cost.

The total direct cost of each program project must not exceed \$3,000,000.

METHOD OF APPLYING

Copies of the complete RFA, guidelines for structuring a program project application and methods of applying can be obtained from the program administrators:

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